Sit. And Robin Hood, Scarlet, and John.

[Sings.

PIST. Shall dunghill curs confront the Helicons ?
And shall good news be baffled ?
Then, Pistol, lay thy head in Furies' lap[3].

SHAL. Honest gentleman, I know not your breeding.

PIST. Why then, lament therefore[4].

SHAL. Give me pardon, sir;—If, sir, you come with news from the court, I take it, there is but two ways; either to utter them, or to conceal them. I am, sir, under the king, in some authority.

PIST. Under which king, Bezonian[5] ? speak, or die.

SHAL. Under king Harry.

King (Cophetua) and the Beggar, may be found in Percy's Reliques of Ancient Poetry, vol. i. MALONE.

See Love's Labour's Lost, vol. iv. p. 344, n. 2. JOHNSON.

2 — *Scarlet, and John.*] This scrap (as Dr. Percy has observed in the first volume of his Reliques of Ancient English Poetry) is taken from a stanza in the old ballad of Robin Hood and the Pindar of Wakefield. STEEVENS.

3 —in FURIES' lap.] Should not we read ?—in *Fury's* lap* RITSON.

4 Why then, LAMENT THEREFORE,] So, in Marlowe's Massacre of Paris:

" The Guise is slain, and I *rejoice therefore*" MALONE.

5 — Bezonian ?] So again, Suffolk says, in The Second Part of Henry VI.:

" Great men oft die by vile *Bezonians*"

It is a term of reproach, frequent, in the writers contemporary with our poet. *Bisognoso*, a *needy person* : thence metaphorically, a *base scoundrel.* THEOBALD.

Nash, in Pierce Pennilesse his Supplication, &c. 1595, says: " Proud lordes do tumble from the towers of their high descents and be trod under feet of every inferior *Besonian*"

In The Widow's Tears, a comedy, by Chapman, 1612, the primitive word is used :

" .....spurn'd out by grooms, like a base *Besogno ?*"

And again, in Sir Giles Goosecap, a comedy, 1606 : " — If he come like to your *Besogno*, your boor, so he be rich, they care not." STEEVENS.